United Nations A/64/551

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 December 2009

Original: English

**Sixty-fourth session**
Agenda item 140

# Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

## Report of the Fifth Committee

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## I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled "Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 4th and 17th meetings, on 7 October and 3 December 2009. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/64/SR.4 and 17).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 and the comments of the Secretary-General thereon (A/64/326 (Part I) and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2) and the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on its activities for the period from 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2009 (A/64/288, paras. 13-24).

## II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.6

4. At its 17th meeting, on 3 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities" (A/C.5/64/L.6), submitted by the Chairperson on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of South Africa.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.6 without a vote (see para. 6).

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# III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

## Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, 54/244 of 23 December 1999, 59/272 of 23 December 2004, 60/259 of 8 May 2006, 61/275 of 29 June 2007, 63/265 of 24 December 2008, 63/276 of 7 April 2009 and 63/287 of 30 June 2009,

*Having considered* the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities[1] and the related note by the Secretary-General,[2] as well as chapter III of the annual report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee,[3]

1. *Reaffirms* its primary role in the consideration of and action taken on reports submitted to it;

2. *Also reaffirms* its oversight role and the role of the Fifth Committee in administrative and budgetary matters;

3. *Further reaffirms* the independence and the separate and distinct roles of the internal and external oversight mechanisms;

4. *Recalls* that the Office of Internal Oversight Services shall exercise operational independence under the authority of the Secretary-General relating to the performance of its internal oversight functions, in accordance with the relevant resolutions;

5. *Encourages* United Nations internal and external oversight bodies to enhance the level of their cooperation with one another, such as joint work planning sessions, without prejudice to the independence of each;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance to effective internal oversight of good cooperation at all levels between management and the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee;

8. *Recalls* its resolution 61/275, in which it approved the terms of reference of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee;

9. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities[1] and the related note by the Secretary-General;[2]

10. *Also takes note* of chapter III of the annual report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee in respect of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;[3]

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[1] A/64/326 (Part I) and Corr.1 and Add.1.

[2] A/64/326 (Part I)/Add.2.

[3] A/64/288.

11. *Stresses* that all reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services shall continue to be submitted in accordance with the format prescribed in part IV, paragraphs 7 and 8, of resolution 63/248 of 24 December 2008;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to address recurring recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services dealing with issues that are systemic in nature;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the accepted recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services in a prompt and timely manner and to provide detailed justifications in cases where recommendations of that Office are not accepted;

14. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant resolutions, including resolutions of a cross-cutting nature, are brought to the attention of relevant managers, and that the Office of Internal Oversight Services also takes those resolutions into account in the conduct of its activities;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant resolutions pertaining to the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services are brought to the attention of the relevant managers;

16. *Expresses deep concern* with the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services referred to in paragraph 37 of its report,[4] and reiterates that the Office shall not propose to the General Assembly any change to the legislative decisions and mandates approved by intergovernmental legislative bodies;

17. *Urges* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Office of Internal Oversight Services conducts its activities in accordance with its mandates as contained in resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272 and in the present resolution;

18. *Reiterates* its requests to the Secretary-General to make every effort to fill vacancies in the Office of Internal Oversight Services as a matter of priority, in accordance with the existing relevant provisions governing recruitment in the United Nations;

19. *Notes* that the five-year non-renewable term of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services will expire in July 2010, and in this regard urges the Secretary-General to ensure that timely arrangements are made to find a successor in full conformity with the provisions of paragraph 5 (b) of its resolution 48/218 B.

[4] A/64/326 (Part I) and Corr.1.